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## Russian Silos Grow, and U.S. Wonders Why

Washington, May 26 (News Bureau)—Missile silos under construction in the Soviet Union may mean that the Russians are working on two new offensive missile systems, instead of just one, a Defense Department spokesman said today.

The spokesman, Deputy Assistant Secretary Jerry W. Friedheim, said this conclusion was drawn from analysis of the work being done on about 60 new intercontinental ballistic (ICBM) silos being built in the Soviet Union. The new launch holes are bigger than any seen before by U.S. spy satellites.

### Survive Attack

He said that evidence gathered this month indicates that the Soviets "may be involved in two separate systems of silo improvement." These possible "improvements" include either new missiles or the development of "hardened" silos so existing missiles would be more able to survive an attack.

"Our best judgment remains that we would expect to see new missiles or improvements of existing missiles," Friedheim said. "We are not certain what the Soviets' intentions are."

### Discusses CIA Report

Friedheim was commenting on reports that the Central Intelligence Agency believed two-thirds of the new silos were simply more attack-proof holes for existing missiles. Friedheim said the CIA and Pentagon have no differences in their intelligence assessments.

Initially, intelligence experts estimated that because the holes were of greater diameter than any seen in the past, they were designed for a missile bigger than the Russian SS-9—now the world's largest ICBM—or for a version of the SS-9 that might carry a multiple warhead.

Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), who first reported the new silos March 7, said the Soviets were developing a new generation, an advanced generation of offensive systems.

In an April 22 speech, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird reported fresh evidence "confirming the sobering fact that the Soviet Union is involved in a new—and apparently extensive—ICBM construction program."

Friedheim took a much more cautious approach.

"We said very early in this discussion . . . that we were not certain what the Soviets' intentions are," Friedheim said. "And that remains our best assessment."